

REMARKS

The Restriction Requirement of July 13, 2005, has been carefully reviewed, and in view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during a telephone interview with the Applicants' representative, Kevin McGoff, on July 25, 2005. During that interview it was indicated that canceling Claims 1-11 and 23-29, thereby leaving only allowed Claims 12-22, should place the application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Claims 1-11 and 23-29 are canceled. Thus, allowed Claims 12-22, 30 and 31 are pending in this application, with Claim 12 being independent.

Restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121

In the above Restriction Requirement, the Examiner identified three groups of claims, from which restriction to a single group was required.

In response to this Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group II(b), Claims 12-22, 30 and 31, without traverse and cancel Group I and II(b) Claims 1-11 and 23-29.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation and/or divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned regarding the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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(including attorneys from BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS)

Date: August 11, 2005

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